

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAB-01 DRC-01 SCCT-02 /100 W

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R 021220Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9815

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF, IR

SUBJ: PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 6164

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABDULLAH TOLD ME OCTOBER 2 THAT THE GOA HAS NOT YET RELEASED THE DOWNED HELICOPTER AND WOULD BE CALLING IN THE PAKISTANI CHARGE' TO GIVE HIM THE REASONS. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE GOA HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO RELEASE THE HELICOPTER AND ITS CREW THREE OR FOUR DAYS AFTER IT HAD RECEIVED THE COP'S "APOLOGIES" (KABUL 6063). THE GOA HAD, HOWEVER, HELD UP THE RELEASE FOR A FEW DAYS BECAUSE OF A THREAT BY SO-CALLED BLACK DECEMBRISTS TO BLOW UP THE AFGHAN EMBASSY IN DACCA UNLESS THE HELICOPTER WERE RELEASED. THIS THREAT HAD GONE AWAY, ONLY TO BE SUCCEEDED BY A SIMILAR THREAT AGAINST THE AFGHAN EMBASSIES IN ISLAMABAD AND TOKYO. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE GOA BELIEVES THAT THE GOP IS BEHIND THESE THREATS AND WILL NOT RELEASE THE HELICOPTER UNDER THREAT. I GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT THE HELICOPTER AND CREW WILL BE RELEASED AS SOON AS THESE THREATS DIE AWAY.

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2. ABDULLAH SAID THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL SADRIEH OF THE IRANIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY (KABUL 6164) HAS LEFT KABUL AND IS NOW IN ISLAMABAD. ABDULLAH SAID THAT HE HAD HELD OUT THE HOPE T SADRIEH THAT IF THE GOP WILL MAKE A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY WILL NOT BOMB THE BALUCHIS AND WILL RELEASE AND START TALKS WITH THE IMPRISONED BALUCHI LEADERS, THE GOA MIGHT SIT DOWN WITH THE GOP AND HAVE BROADER TALKS. ABDULLAH SAID HE HAD ALSO SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO BHUTTO THROUGH SADRIEH STATING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT AFGHANISTAN DOES NOT WANT THE DISINTEGRATION OF PAKISTAN AND HOPES THAT BHUTTO WILL DEMONSTRATE COURAGE IN SEIZING THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS.

3. ABDULLAH SAID THAT THE GOA HAD FOUND THE UNGA SPEECH OF AZIZ AHMED MODERATE. ABDULLAH SAID THAT HE, HOWEVER, IS OBLIGED TO SPELL OUT IN HIS UNGA SPEECH THE CAUSES OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID THAT THE LATEST DRAFT OF HIS SPEECH IS MUCH MORE MODERATE THAN THE EARLIER DRAFTS BECAUSE THE GOA DOES NOT WISH TO INTERRUPT THE PRESENT DIALOGUE BEING CARRIED ON THROUGH SADRIEH.

4. COMMENT: ALL OF THE ABOVE IS MILDLY ENCOURAGING BUT THE GAP BETWEEN THE AFGHAN AND PAK POSITIONS SEEMS TO BE AS WIDE AS EVER. ABDULLAH IMPLIED THAT THE SECRETARY'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE REGION IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THE GOA'S PRESENT MORE MODERATE STANCE. I SUSPECT THE IRANIANS HAVE ALSO HAD SOME INFLUENCE IN THIS DIRECTION.
ELIOT

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